



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

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April 21, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist HWS

RE: Field Visit, Thornburg Memorial Mine, M/019/006, Grand County, Utah

On April 14, 1988, I visited the Thornburg Memorial Mine Site with Mike and Dick Shumway of Western States Resources. This meeting and site visit with the operators was performed to discuss the problem of reclaiming three waste piles at the site.

The waste piles and other areas of this site were regraded and seeded in the fall of 1986. The original disturbance at the site was 17 acres. The reclamation performed in 1986 reduced this acreage to 3.3 acres. The problem still remains, however, with obtaining an acceptable vegetative cover on the three waste piles mentioned above.

According to Mike and Dick the waste piles have been seeded twice with no success. The last seeding was done in the fall of 1987 after seeding recommendations were made by Frank Filas and Frank Jensen. Mike explained to me that the seed has been broadcast over the piles on top of a light veneer of snow in the late fall, thus not following Frank Jensen's recommendation of covering the seed with 1/4-1/2 inches of soil material.

The waste material at the site does not offer a viable growth medium for revegetation and will have to be amended. The Shumways and I discussed moving in three inches of topsoil to cover the material. This was thought to be an unacceptable option by the Shumways because of the cost. I am currently considering another approach which would involve ripping, reseeding, fertilizing and mulching the material. I have spoken with Jeff Robins of the BLM's Grand Resource Area Office, and will be developing a more specific plan to amend and reseed the site.

I plan to ask the Shumways to try a couple of different approaches as a means of experimentation on this type of material. I have collected some soil samples and will be sending them in for analysis to obtain a better idea of the amendments that will be required.

The Shumways are eager to have the \$6,600 bond released on the property and will be willing to negotiate an acceptable plan to revegetate the waste piles.

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cc: L. Braxton  
F. Filas